

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 00401 191415Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-11 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07

SP-02 SS-15 STR-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /125 W

-----058018 200330Z /70

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7504

INFO AMEMBASSU KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0401

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EALR, ENRG, ETRD, RO, KU

SUBJ: STATUS OF KUWAIT/ ROMANIAN PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT

REF: A) KUWAIT 0102, B) 77 KUWAIT 6545

1. INFORMATION RECEIVED IN RECENT MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY OFFICIALS TENDS TO CONFIRM INFO PROVIDED IN REFTELS REGARDING PROBLEM IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOR AND KUWAIT GOVERNMENT ON PROPOSED NAVODARI PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX. ON 11 JANUARY, GEORGHE DEIXNER (DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY) TOLD EMBOFF THAT SINGLE OBSTACLE TO AGREEMENT WITH KUWAIT WAS DECISION ON WHAT PRICE REFINED PETROLEUM WOULD SELL FOR. DEIXNER FURTHER COMMENTED WITHOUT ELABORATING THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED BY OPEC'S RECENT DECISION TO FREEZE OIL PRICES.

2. ACCORDING TO DEIXNER, GOR NO LONGER REFERS TO PROJECT AS "NAVODARI," BUT CALLS IT "MIDIA." REASON GIVEN FOR CHANGE IS THAT CONFUSION RESULTED IN PAST DISCUSSIONS BECAUSE NAVODARI ALREADY HAS FUNCTIONING CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COMPLEX FOR PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER PRODUCTION.

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 00401 191415Z

3. COMMENT. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MINCHEM OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THEY ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN PROVIDING DETAILED BRIEFING ON NAVODARI/MIDIA PROJECT TO MEMBERS OF LATE MARCH USDOC-SPONSORED TSS AS AGREED PREVIOUSLY. IT APPEARS THAT GOR NOW WISHES TO AVOID GIVING WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY TO PROPOSED ROMANIAN/KUWAITI PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT IN EVENT IT COLLAPSES. CHEMICAL INDUSTRY MINISTRY OFFICIALS, WHO PRE-

VIOUSLY HAD NOT GIVEN US CLEAR INDICATION OF SCOPE OF THIS
JOINT PROJECT, ARE, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, NOW REFUSING
TO DISCUSS IT AT ALL. MEANWHILE, GOR ABILITY TO FIND OTHER
SHORT-TERM SUPPLIERS OF CRUDE OIL IN 1977 (ESPECIALLY FROM
SOVIETS) HAS PERHAPS EASED PRESSURE ON IT TO CONCLUDE EARLY
AGREEMENT WITH KUWAITIS AT TERMS THAT GOR WOULD CONSIDER TO
BE LESS THAN SATISFACTORY.
AGGREY

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